

# Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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[www.chcca.net](http://www.chcca.net)

MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



TESTIMONY OF  
JENNIFER JENNINGS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR COMMITTEE  
MARCH 1, 2011

987

## 2011

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**Steve Szypulski**  
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(203) 772-2240

## LOBBYISTS

**Gara & Markowski, LLC**  
[www.gmlobbying.com](http://www.gmlobbying.com)

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments opposing SB-987, An Act Requiring Community Workforce Agreements For Construction Projects At The Connecticut State University System:

CHCC opposes this bill on behalf of our member companies engaged in work in the HVAC industry. CHCC feels that requiring a community workforce agreement would violate the spirit and the letter of competitive bidding processes. These community workforce agreements would discriminate against many small businesses in the heating and cooling industry, including minority- and women-owned businesses by requiring union labor for construction projects at the Connecticut State University System. Such agreements are not necessary and only serve to add costs and they discriminate against open-shop companies and their workers.

CHCC member firms routinely complete jobs with the highest quality construction and HVAC standards, meeting owner deadlines and unique project demands, without a project labor agreement in effect. These firms do so with their own workforce, their own apprentices, and under their own rules established by management. The quality construction and HVAC work provided by CHCC member contractors benefits not only local communities whose members are part of the workforce, but taxpayers who finance the construction of certain public projects. As such, CHCC opposes any effort to limit the eligible workforce, drive up costs for taxpayers, or impose burdensome, unnecessary and inflexible requirements on independent businesses.

For these reasons, we ask you to please **REJECT SB-987**.

*CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.*